

CASE VIGNETTES

CASE WITH MULTIPLE MOVES

John came into care at the age of 5. At that time, John was living with his biological mother, biological mother's boyfriend, and 9 siblings. All of the siblings were taken into care due to neglect and sexual abuse by the boyfriend to several of the female children.

John was split from all of his siblings except for one of his older brothers. They were placed in numerous traditional homes together. None of the placements, except for one, lasted more than 1 year. The placement that lasted more than one year was in a traditional home with 5 foster children. This home was located in a community with a lot of gang involvement.

John's older brother got involved with gangs, which resulted in John being exposed to this 'lifestyle' at an early age. John had problems early on with school and was placed in a therapeutic day school at the age of 10. John was admitted to psychiatric hospitals on several occasions due to aggressive behaviors. He was eventually placed in a residential facility at the age of 11 due to reportedly starting a fire in his foster home.

John stayed in the residential facility until he was 13 years old and was then placed in a relative's home. He was removed from this home after 6 months due to fights he was having with his relative and his relative's teenage daughter. After this placement disrupted, he was placed in a group home setting. He resided there for one year until he was placed with non related foster parents in a specialized foster care program. This placement lasted 6 months. During this placement he was hospitalized on three occasions. During the last hospitalization, the decision was made that John could not return to the foster home. He was once again moved to a residential facility. This placement lasted for 2 years. At that time, the residential facility felt that he had progressed and was ready to step down to a less structured setting. He moved to a transitional living center where he still resides. John continues to struggle with truancy issues. He has been arrested several times and is now reportedly involved with drugs.

CASE WITH FEW OR NO MOVES

Isabelle came into care at the age of 1 for neglect. At that time, Isabelle was living with her biological mother and three siblings. All of the siblings were taken into custody due to the mother leaving them for long periods of time without appropriate supervision. The mother was involved with drugs and all of the children were supposedly born substance exposed. Isabelle was physically healthy but delayed in various areas.

Isabelle was placed in her paternal grandmother's home with both of her siblings. She stayed in this home for 2 years but then had to be removed due to her grandmother's deteriorating health. All of the children were placed with different relatives. Isabelle was placed with her paternal aunt. She has been in this home for three years. The aunt is currently considering permanency options.

CASE THAT HAD MULTIPLE MOVES BUT NOW APPEARS STABLE:

Dewan came into care at the age of 2 for neglect. At that time Dewan was living with his paternal grandmother and three siblings. The biological mother had left the children earlier that year with the grandmother due to her inability to care for the children. The mother was reportedly on drugs and did not have a home. The paternal grandmother got ill and was not able to keep the children. Neither of the parents stepped up to take the kids so she contacted DCFS and the children were taken into custody. Dewan and his siblings were placed together. Within the first two years of entering care, Dewan and his siblings were moved three times. The first placement was considered to be temporary so they only resided there for 6 months. The second placement disrupted due to the caregiver not being able to handle all of the children's needs. The third placement disrupted because relatives in Iowa came forward and requested that the boys be placed with them. Dewan and his siblings moved to Iowa to live with their relatives. This placement ended within one year due to allegations that the relatives were physically harming the children. The children were then placed with another relative in Iowa. This placement ended within one year due to the same reason. Dewan and his siblings returned to Illinois and were placed together in a traditional foster home. During this placement, all of the children went through assessments and were found to have PTSD and ADHD. They stayed in this home for almost one year before being removed due to a licensing violation in the home. Dewan was then placed in a psychiatric hospital due to fire setting behaviors that he had exhibited.

Dewan stayed in the hospital for several weeks and was then placed in a residential setting. His siblings eventually ended up in the same residential facility. He had numerous assessments completed during the year that he resided in the residential facility. After being in the residential facility for 7 months, the worker began to look for an adoptive home for Dewan. An adoptive home was located and he transitioned over a three-month period into the adoptive home. Dewan was placed in this home through a specialized foster care contract. Dewan continues to remain in this home without his siblings. The adoption is supposed to be finalized in December.